Chapter 2

Amos 2: [1] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Moab, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because he burned the bones of the king of Edom into lime: [2] But I will send a fire upon Moab, and it shall devour the palaces of Kerioth: and Moab shall die with tumult, with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet: [3] And I will cut off the judge from the midst thereof, and will slay all the princes thereof with him, saith the LORD.

1. The Message Continued

Amos has been giving the message of God to Israel as concerning their enemies, then to the nation of Israel itself.

God has warned of the judgment of 5 surrounding enemy nations; Damascus for cruelty and torture, Gaza for slavery, Tyre for breaking of covenants, Edom for their vengeful actions and the nation of Ammon for violence.

Now God will warn of another enemy nation Moab.
Then the pronouncement of judgment will continue to both Judah and Israel.

A. Moab 2:1-3 (South Of Israel)

God has been bringing charges Moab desecrated human life and death.
In distress and rage the King of Moab burnt his son and offered him as a sacrifice to a false god, **2Kings 3:26-27**.
In revenge upon the Edomites, the King of Moab seized the King of Edom and burnt him to ashes and powder.
To desecrate a human body is vicious.

Those that deal cruelly shall be dealt with cruelly.
God will cut Moab down by the sword of warfare.

Since the King of Moab acting as a judge, God will show that there is a Judge that is higher.
The king and his family will be cut off.

Amos 2: [4] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Judah, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have despised the law of the LORD, and have not kept his commandments, and their lies caused them to err, after the which their fathers have walked:
[5] But I will send a fire upon Judah, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem.

B. Judah 2:4-5 (Near neighbor to Israel)

The sin of Judah is different than those pagan Gentile nations.
Other nations were charged for injuries to men, but Judah's sin was indignities toward God.

They have despised the law of the Lord and disobeyed His commandments.
They treat God's word with contempt and persisted in disobedience to God.
In fact Judah honored the rivals of the Lord God.
Judah bowed down to and served false gods.

God says "***Their lies caused them to err.***" In other words, Judah has gone astray.
"***They changed the truth of God into a lie***."

Judah got lifted up in pride and thought they could serve God anyway they wanted.
There is a difference between the God you want and the God that is!
Israel had become prideful in and for their sin, **Psalm 10: 1-4, 11-18** and **Ezekiel 9:9-10.**
God will devour the palaces of Jerusalem because of their sin.

Amos 2: [6] Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Israel, and for four, I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they sold the righteous for silver, and the poor for a pair of shoes; [7] That pant after the dust of the earth on the head of the poor, and turn aside the way of the meek: and a man and his father will go in unto the same maid, to profane my holy name: [8] And they lay themselves down upon clothes laid to pledge by every altar, and they drink the wine of the condemned in the house of their god.

C. Israel 2:6-8

Now at last, God brings the charges to Israel for their sin.
God says the government of Israel is corrupt.
Justice is perverted.
A righteous man is sold for silver or bribery. Injustice abounds in the land of Israel.

They oppress the poor of the land with their greed.
"They pant after the dust of the earth" literally means they are greedy for gain which is useless.

They are filled with lust, immorality, drunkenness and idolatry.
There is a blatant disregard for standards, as Israel toasted his success with money dishonestly gained.
The people are oppressed, **Exodus 22:26-27**.

2. The Method

God will send "***fire***" and "***devour***", **Amos 1:4, 7, 10, 12, 14; 2:2, 5.**

Fire is a picture of consumption. God is saying, I am going to take away your strengths.
God is going to devour these proud nations, **Proverbs 16:18.**
God has given each of these nations time to repent. His grace and mercy was extended.
But time has run out. God will not turn away the punishment.

Amos 2: [9] Yet destroyed I the Amorite before them, whose height was like the height of the cedars, and he was strong as the oaks; yet I destroyed his fruit from above, and his roots from beneath. [10] Also I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and led you forty years through the wilderness, to possess the land of the Amorite. [11] And I raised up of your sons for prophets, and of your young men for Nazarites. Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel? saith the LORD.

3. The Memory 2:9-11

God reminds Israel of the great things He had done for Israel in giving them the promised land.
We often need to be reminded of the mercies that we have received.

Israel was brought out of the land of Egypt and God preserved them 40 years through the wilderness.
God drove away the Amorites of Canaan and gave Israel the promised land.

God raised up men of God to serve Him and preach truth and righteousness to the people.
These men of God would teach what is pleasing to God, to warn of danger of disobedience.
These men of God would direct Israel in difficulty and comfort Israel in troubles.
It was an honor for God to chose men from their own families to be God's messengers.

God has given Israel the greatest of privileges and advantages.
Israel has been a people blessed of God.

God asks, "***Is it not even thus, O ye children of Israel?***"
Is not God giving a true witness to His goodness?
Can anyone deny the goodness of God?

Amos 2: [12] But ye gave the Nazarites wine to drink; and commanded the prophets, saying, Prophesy not. [13] Behold, I am pressed under you, as a cart is pressed that is full of sheaves. [14] Therefore the flight shall perish from the swift, and the strong shall not strengthen his force, neither shall the mighty deliver himself: [15] Neither shall he stand that handleth the bow; and he that is swift of foot shall not deliver himself: neither shall he that rideth the horse deliver himself. [16] And he that is courageous among the mighty shall flee away naked in that day, saith the LORD.

4. The Measure 2:12-16

Yet Israel had deserted God.
Israel abused the grace God had given them.
Israel was unthankful.
Israel had broken her vows to God and told the prophets to quit preaching, **Amos 7:12**.
There is a danger today in which men are told not to preach the entire truth, **Isaiah 30: 9-10** and **Acts 4:17-20**.
Israel was committing the same sins of the Gentile nations that God put out of the promised land.
Do you expect God to shut His eyes to sins of His people?

God said He is pressed under the sin of Israel as a cart loaded with sheaves.
Israel has put God into a very difficult situation.
God is grieved with the sins of the nation that profess they know God.

God loads us daily with benefits, **Psalm 68:19** and in return we load Him with our sins.
Rather than thank the Lord and praise the Lord we bring shame to Him.

Though His patience is tired out, His power is not, **Isaiah 1:24**.
God will bring judgment and there will be no escape.

Those that will not submit to the convictions of the word, those that will not be won by the just conversations of those around them, shall sink under the judgment of God.

If we load God with our unconfessed sins, will not God load us with His judgment?

"***The flight shall perish from the swift***" means there will be nowhere to run and hide.
There will be no deliverance form the wrath of the judgment of God.
The man who was unafraid of danger will lose his courage, when he faces the Lord.

What was happening to Israel was a weakening of the nation and they didn't even realize it.
On Mar 29, 1948 Niagra Falls was stopped by ice.

There are consequences of not getting right with God:
Contempt for God's authority, 1Sam 8:19.
Craving for sin develops, Isaiah 30:1.
Cold in our Concern, Matt 24:12.
Closeness with God hindered, Ps 66:18.
Collapse of success/prosperity, Proverbs 28:13
Corruption of our labor, Proverbs 1:27-31.
Children Removed, Jer 15:6-7, Hos 9:12, and Ps 127:3.